

Project Details:

Name of Project: Alamb

Location (Town / City, State): JB – 35B Janta Flat, Hari Nagar, New Delhi - 110064

Date of Visit: 18th August, 2003

Project Coordinator Name: Mr. Rustam Ali

Project Coordinator Contact Information (Address, Email, Phone, Fax):

JB – 35 B Janta Flat, Hari Nagar, New Delhi – 110064

Office phone number: 25128680

Cell phone number: 9810562507

Project Status during time of visit (e.g. approved, first stages of review, etc):

Approved, 1st and 2nd Qtr payment done.

Pre-visit Preparation:

Did you go through the following documents (if applicable) prior to the visit?

Project Proposal: Yes

Project correspondence: Yes

Project Summary: Yes

Financial requirements (may be a part of the proposal): Yes

Previous Project Visit reports: No

Please briefly describe any other pre-visit preparation: (this may include transportation, communication with the project coordinator, project lead, etc.):

1. Got in touch with the project lead (Ms.Puja) of Alamb, who further gave me the contact information of the project coordinator (Mr. Rustam Ali)
2. Had a telephonic conversation with Mr. Rustam Ali, wherein I scheduled a project visit.

Visit Details:

Please describe chronologically your visit. This may include your travel to the project, your visits with different components of the project or the coordinator. Please include timelines around the same:

1. All excited about the project visit, we (my self and Mr. Naveen) left my place around 1 pm. The mode of transport was my car. It took us an hour to reach the Alamb office (The office is a small apartment situated in a populated area), which is located at Hari Nagar (West Delhi).
2. Had a meeting with Mr. Rustam Ali (the project coordinator), which lasted for an hour. We got a brief review of the uplifting activities that are carried out by Alamb to educate the girls and make them self-reliant. We also had a look at the project proposal.

3. Following are points of our discussion with Mr. Rustam Ali:
- The main aim of the project is to educate the girls and make them self-reliant.
 - Alamb is functioning from 3 centers namely Transit camp Hastasaal, Omvihar and Sector-(16 A) Papankala.
 - Transit Camp Hastasaal – current student strength as told by the project coordinator 50 -target strength 75, Teachers – 1. Formal and supplementary education.
Omvihar - current student strength as told by the project coordinator 75 target strength 75, Teachers – 2, Formal education, Supplementary education and vocational training.
Sec – (16 A) Papankala - - current student strength 25 as told by the project coordinator target strength 75, Teachers – 1, Formal and supplementary education for class 9 – 10. In this area there is a health project which is been funded by CRY.
 - The activities that are carried out in the centers to meet the above stated aim are as follows:
 1. Providing Formal education for girls between the age group of 7 to 18 from class 1st to 10th.
 2. Providing Supplementary education. (It's basically after school classes for reinforcing what the students have already learnt in govt. school). They also provide education for the school dropouts and motivate them to join schools again.
 3. Presently, Vocational courses (only tailoring) are conducted at the Omvihar center.
 4. Conducting regular meetings of the community, where the Alamb staff addresses the family problems, spread awareness amongst the society about education and sanitation, motivate parents to send their children to govt. schools, financial help to the needy children for education if required.
 5. Regular staff meetings are conducted to monitor the status of the project.
 6. Minimum fees (Rs. 20/-) are collected from the students (only from those who can afford). The project coordinator says that in this way they assure that the students take the classes seriously and are regular.

Note : The figure mentioned are as told by the project coordinator.

4. After the meeting, we proceeded to the project sites. The first project that we visited was the transit camp at Hastasaal. It was a 20-minute drive from the Alamb office. The camp is a thickly populated area. During our visit the teacher was conducting a supplementary class for the girls of class 4 to 9 in a small room. The students get their own books to the class. The teacher, who seemed to be efficient, was a 12th grade passed lady. The student were excited to see us. We had a little chat with the students and the teacher and then allowed them to continue their class. From there we left for the Omvihar site. It took us 30 mintues to reach this site.

5. The Omvihar site is in the interiors of a widely spread slum area. The Project area is quite big, it has a big hall plus 2 good-sized rooms. First, we met the vocational teacher for tailoring and her students. There were 8 sewing machines in that room. Mr. Rustam Ali said that in actual there are 13 sewing machines. They remaining 5 will be used when required. In the next room the teacher was conducting a supplementary class. We had a talk with the students and the teachers and proceeded to the next project site.
6. The last site that we visited was Sec – (16 A) Papankala. There we met the teacher, students and the counselor (Mr. Azhar Nafiz). The counselor who seemed to be an efficient social – worker interacts with the community on regular basis and addresses their problems. Mr. Rustam Ali told us that the students had performed a skit at the Omvihar project site. The girls said that the skit was regarding general hygiene and was very much appreciated by everyone.

Please briefly describe your perspectives of the project. This could include your perspectives on

- 1. The project coordinator**
- 2. Other employees at the project / of the NGO**
- 3. The beneficiary children at the project**
- 4. Any other beneficiaries (parents, teachers, local community)**
- 5. Project documentation (at the project)**

The project on the whole seems to be very worthwhile.

1. The project coordinator (Mr. Rustam Ali) seems to be an efficient and a co-operative person with good people skills. He has a good rapport with the teachers, students and the other staff members of all the 3 action centers. He also takes lot of interest in the activities of the project.
2. All the teachers seemed to be well versed with their subjects and are taking a lot of interest in teaching. Out of the three teachers, one is a 12th grade pass and the other two are graduates. The teacher at the Sec – (16 A) Papankala center seemed to be an intelligent science graduate girl. I personally feel recruiting more teachers like her would help the girls.
3. The girls seemed to be very bright, confident and cheerful. It seemed that they enjoyed coming to the centers for education and they know the importance of education. They were all excited to see us and wanted us to stay longer.
4. Though we didn't get a chance to meet the parents of the girls and the community members, we were been told by the counselor and the project coordinator that the views of the parents and the community have changed due to Alamb's constant perseverance to the community to send their children to school and make them self – reliant. There is a certain level of awareness in the community, which will help the children grow in a better way.
5. The attendance register was the only document available at the action centers.

Did you find the project implementation in tune with the project proposal? If there are any differences (enhancements, reductions), please list them in the order of importance and specify the reason for the differences.

We found the project implementation very much in tune with the project proposal. Following are the few differences that we noticed during our visit:

- According to the project proposal, Alamb has stated that in the vocational courses they will be providing tailoring and computer education. But at present, there is only tailoring course that is provided.
- The target strength according to the project proposal is 255 girls but at present there are only 150 girls.
Note : The figure mentioned are as told by the project coordinator.
- There is no library provided for the girls. I personally feel that it should be implemented ASAP.

Please identify the financial needs / plans for the project. This includes how the funds being allocated by Vibha are being put to use at the project. Do you believe that they are being judiciously utilized?

The funds have been allocated as follows:

1. Rent of the office area and the 3 centers.
2. Teachers, counselor and the other staff salaries.
3. Purchased 13 sewing machines for the vocational course. Note: The figure mentioned are as told by the project coordinator.
4. Electricity bill. (well, there was no electricity in Sec – (16 A) papankala).
6. Study tours
7. Proposed library.

Is there additional scope for funding within the project? Or is there a scope for reduction in funding? If so, please provide reason (such as alternate sources of funding being available to the project, etc.)

No.

What are the strengths, opportunities within the project? What positives did you notice during your visit?

This project is a great help to the girls and the local communities.

The strengths of the project are as follows:

- It is providing education to school going girls and also to the school dropouts.
- Providing vocational courses for working girls and school goers.

- Motivating the students to continue going to school.
- Spreading general awareness in the local community. Addressing family problems etc.
- Through skits performed by the girl students they are reaching out to a great number of people. The skits are generally based on educating the mass.
- Provide employment for the social workers.

What are the weaknesses, risks within the project? Did you have any concerns during your visit?

I personally feel that the 3 action centers should be regularly monitored. By doing this, one can get a much better picture of the activities carried out on regular basis. Alamb should also try to conduct regular study tours to aid the girls gain knowledge and good exposure.

Would you recommend any immediate changes for continued funding?

No.

On a scale of 0 to 5, with 5 being a strong recommendation and a 0 being a strong disapproval, how would you recommend this project for renewed Vibha funding after our initial commitment (if the scope permits the same)?

Alamb has ongoing projects since 1992, so it proves to be a time tested organization. I don't see any harm in Vibha renewing their initial commitment if required.

Can Vibha help the project in any other way (through providing materials, resources or any other support)?

At present, Alamb has a good infrastructure and resources. I don't think they would require any other support to function.

I personally suggest Vibha to buy the materials required for the projects such as sewing m/c, computers etc. directly from the vendors. In this way you can keep a check of the funds that are provided to Alamb. Vibha's best bet will be to have a permanent set-up in India, which can monitor every aspect of the project, which is been supported.

Overall, please give your thoughts on

1. **Your project visit**
2. **The Project**
3. **The Project coordinator, employees**
4. **The beneficiaries**

1. The project visit was very satisfying. It was a good experience on the whole. I will recommend the volunteers to surely visit a project if they get a chance to do so. I feel the experience enthuses you more to continue doing the noble cause. To see that the efforts that are put in by many heads are helping children and the communities on the whole is very satisfying.

The 2, 3 and 4 point has already been answered.